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They Expected Too Much.

The cost of living is high, but the world's records for altitude have been broken yet.

Calamity howlers might profitably open their histories, where they would find that times have been frequently harder than these. Especially do the hard times come after the wars.

After the American Revolution, money was as cheap and prices so high that a barber in Philadelphia papered his shop with government notes of the "continental" variety, and was considered to have been the wallpaper dealer out of a trade.

At this period the housewife went to market with her basket and her purse, as has always been the custom, but the basket was to carry the paper money and the purse was to hold the beefsteak and the money bought.

After the war of 1812 the price of flour jumped from \$7.50 a barrel to \$100 a barrel.

About the end of the Civil war the government's greenbacks were worth only 35 cents on the dollar, and the price of commodities was high in proportion.

In each of these cases the productive industries of the country had been paralyzed by war, and inflation had set in.

The pessimists abound, but such was the spirit of the people that everybody got to work and in a very few years matters were going along more smoothly than ever.

There is just one feature of the present situation that is not paralleled in previous history. That is the persistence of the discontented attitude of labor. It is the one outstanding reason that keeps us from flourishing like the green bay tree.

Roger Babson, the well-known statistical expert, states that during the last five years there have been no less than 7,500 strikes of one kind or another in this country. Of these there were more in the last year alone than in the other four put together. To these is due the fact that our industries are producing only 60 per cent of their normal output today, while poor little Belgium, lately the object of our pitying solitude, is running already on a 90 per cent schedule.

It is not reasonable to believe that the rootlessness of labor is due to the wage question entirely, when it is considered that laborers in all sorts of employment are getting from \$8 to \$12 a day.

Rather it is due to the fact that the hopes of labor, like those of all the rest of the population, were less too high during the war. They expected a peace that would also be a millennium. The war was a war to end war, and incidentally to end troubles of all lesser sorts, such as selfish employers and hard and disagreeable work.

When illusions are shattered, there is generally a reaction that puts the disappointed one out of working gear for a little while. He has to take a few days off to cure his fatigue.

But in the end he adjusts his expectations to the size of the possible in this life again, and then he is as good as new.

Ratify.

By ratifying the Nineteenth amendment this state can both perform a service to the general public and confer a great favor upon the Democratic party.

The Republicans have furnished most of the 25 states that have already ratified the woman suffrage amendment, but it seems that either they are indifferent to their opportunities now or they have struck a snag in their internal organization such that they can not get the conclusive vote of ratification.

Senator Harding, when interviewed by the suffrage leaders the other day, declined to make any representation to the Republican states which have not yet passed the amendment. But President Wilson, as the present head of his party did not hesitate to write to the governor of this state, strongly urging him to issue a call for a special session of the legislature for the purpose of ratifying the amendment.

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Whether the ladies would love the Republicans more for furnishing them the majority of the ratifying votes, or the Democrats more for furnishing the last one, is a problem that may be left to those who think they understand the feminine psychology. But it is certain that the public interests demand that the women receive quickly that right which has long been withheld from them in theory and that they have the opportunity to exercise it in the full presidential election.

The governor has had official assurances from two sources that the action of the legislature would be entirely valid. Both the attorney-general of this state and the assistant attorney-general of the United States have handed down the opinion that, in accordance with the recent decision of the supreme court, it does not matter what the state constitution says about the ratification of the federal amendment if it is voted by the legislature in official session.

Clarifying Reservations.

Mr. Lansing was informed that his resignation from the cabinet would be acceptable for the reason that his mind did not go along with the president's.

It is evident that no objection can be brought against Mr. Bainbridge Colby, his successor, who, after a conference at the White House, makes this confession of faith:

"I do not believe that the Versailles

treaty, with its league of nations covenant, requires any interpretative reservations. The document, in other words, is so clear that interpretative reservations can hardly be urged as necessary."

For those befuddled Democrats who nevertheless would think it the part of honesty to set forth by way of reservations the exact limitations which our constitution puts upon our membership in the league of nations, the secretary of state holds forth this comfort:

"However, if reservations or paraphrases will clarify, there is no objection to them, but reservations which stultify the main purpose of the league and negative the substance of the covenant are things which no man solicitous about America's honor can take into his reckoning."

The secretary of state expresses a hope that will be entertained by all Democrats when he predicts that the San Francisco convention will meet "in a serious and amiable temper to discuss matters of the highest moment."

But the rates of longer standing than Mr. Colby are not quite so sanguine, and particularly they look forward with misgivings to the possibility that the extreme wing of the party at San Francisco will attempt to force upon the party a no-reservations plank that will embarrass many of its conscientious and patriotic members and lead to Republican victory at the polls.

The Democratic party should be willing to do for the sake of its own success what neither party in the recent notorious senatorial debates was willing to do to practice give and take, and to come to a working agreement in which each side to the dispute has surrendered something according to the theory of all parliamentary institutions and popular governments.

The Democratic harp is capable of discouraging sweet music to the electorate if advantage is taken of the full resources of the instrument. Its performance will not be very winning if the chief players insist on playing on one string only.

There was a concession from the all-or-nothing school indicated by Mr. Colby's acceptance of "clarifying reservations" as useless but unobjectionable, and that is very welcome in the light of the foregoing.

The other thing that is desirable in the interest of Democratic harmony is that the Democrats, having cleared the way for such reservations as patriotic senators will demand, will not make their whole fight upon the treaty as a party issue, or even their main fight, for the country at large knows very well that on that score the Democrats and the Republicans are about equally to blame for the breakdown of parliamentary government and the defeat of the treaty in the senate.

The "Handy Man."

The arrest of a number of persons on the charge of violating the Sabbath emphasizes the fact that more repair work, such as painting and building, is being done by the home owner than in many years.

There was a time when it was not thought necessary to call in a carpenter to nail a board on the back fence or to call a plumber to put a washer on a leaking faucet, or a painter to decorate the servant's house.

There was a time when it was not thought necessary to call in a doctor for every slight ailment, real or imaginary. Remedies for familiar ailments were household words, and people got along about as well as they do now.

There was a time when every man stopped his own razor and at least one member of the family cut the children's hair. Now it is a rare thing to see one cut his hair and then it is for exercise and recreation.

The age of "specialization" we are living in has reduced each person to a single enterprise. The result is more work for the mechanic, painter and carpenter and the yardman and no increase in the number of persons required to do the work. This has led to high wages and a slackening in the energy put into the work.

Whenever a people becomes too vain, fat and idle to work its farms, dig its own ditches, clean its own premises and houses it will decline in health, prosperity and power.

If there is one thing that will compel men to do their own work it is the fact that they are passing under as much for half the amount of work per man than they did before the war. The way to improve the quality of the laborer is to improve the quality of the labor.

We are beginning to take a cue from the foreign labor that was brought to this country to compete with the native-born workmen. Instead of improving conditions they have demoralized industry. Every time they have been employed, I find more instances of idleness, loafing and general laziness.

Mrs. T. J. Latham returned from a tour of the state and had been lately working in making life should be the percent efficient for the year 1932.

The time has come for the "handy man" around the house, for the return of the blacksmith shop on the farm and for men and women to strive their selves.

If for no other reason, the most intensive, the most important in the world, can be had from themselves, they need masters.

One remedy has been a comparatively new from Mr. Roosevelt's famous league of nations. This confers no previous coming of spiritualism.

Perhaps the strongest general cause for Mr. Mead's course is his opinion that the state constitution is the basis of the federal amendment.

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## —And Some Have Golf Thrust Upon Them—By Briggs

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## ? The Question Box ?

Q—Do the offices of the senators and representatives close entirely during the recess of congress?—A. M. L.

A—There is no general rule concerning the closing of the offices of the senators and representatives. Some congressmen close their offices entirely, while others keep secretaries or clerks in Washington to look after their routine business, such as opening mail and answering inquiries.

Q—Is Germany furnishing coal to France as she agreed to do?—E. T.

A—The reparations commission announced that Germany had delivered 1,000,000 tons of coal to France up to May 31.

Q—Can private citizens use the navy's radio system?—L. E. W.

A—A resolution was reported favorably by the merchant marine committee of the house of representatives, which allows any American citizen, press association, or business firm to use the navy's radio system at rates fixed by the secretary of the department.

Q—How can I tell how much a can will hold?—T. R.

A—Measure the diameter and height of the can in inches. Multiply the diameter by itself and the product by the height, take one-third of 1 per cent of the total, and this answer will be the number of gallons, correct to one-tenth.

Q—At the appearance of a new moon it is often spoken of as a wet or dry moon. Please describe a wet moon.

A—A "wet moon" is a new moon having one horn much lower than the other, thus resembling a tilted bowl. It is erroneously believed to be a sign of a great deal of rain during the month.

Q—Is it true that King George of the United Kingdom could not speak English?—L. E. W.

A—George III who was king of England and the United States was an American independence, learned to speak German and French during his youth, but also spoke English as his native tongue.

Q—How much silk is required by the telephone companies?—U. T.

A—Such statistics are not available, but the Bell Telephone News states that 300,000 pounds of silk yarn are used annually by that company.

Q—Give a brief history of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company.

A—The war department states that the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company was formed in Boston about 1538. It is the oldest military organization in the United States.

Q—How many people in the United States can read books written for the blind?—How fast can they read?—R. E. W.

A—There are about 20,000 readers using Braille type in this country. Blind persons can read about as fast as the average person would read aloud.

Q—Can you give the answer to any question by writing The News Scimitar Information Bureau, Frederic J. Haskin, director, Washington, D. C.?

A—This office strictly to inform the public on matters of general interest, and does not attempt to settle domestic troubles, nor to undertake exhaustive research on any subject. Write your question plainly and briefly. Give full name and address and include 2-cent stamps for return postage. All replies are sent direct to the inquirer.